LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government Accountability and Oversight Wednesday, May 13, 2009 4:00 P.M.
Third Floor, City Hall

Present: Chairman: CM Downard

Vice Chair: CM King (Arrived at 4:20 p.m. & Left at 5:05)

Members: CM Kramer, CM Henderson, CM Ward-Pugh, CM Fleming,

and CM Brent Ackerson

Chairman Downard began the meeting by introducing the members and non-members of the committee that were present. A quorum was established.

Special Items For Discussion

Human Resources on the Benefits Offered Metro Government Employees

Bill Hornig, Director of Human Resources spoke. A benefits brochure was handed out to the Committee Members (attached). The following was discussed:

- Employees scheduled to work a minimum of 25 hours or more a week are eligible for all employee benefits
- Employees scheduled to work a minimum of 17 1/2 hours a week are eligible for vacation and holiday pay on a pro rata basis
- The Pension Plan and Group Medical are the most expensive benefits
- Tuition Services reimbursement
 - Services suspended unless an employee is already going to class before April 6, 2009
 - Should start back up in July, 2009
 - o No one hurt financially to Mr. Hornig's knowledge
 - Metro Ordinance states employees can get tuition benefits
 - Should have checked the law before cutting tuition benefits
- Benefits compared to others Metro is competitive not at the high or low end
- Family Health Care Plan cost
- Benefits to same sex partners None at the present
- Possible 7% increase for medical benefits next year

CM Kramer suggests that Human Resources abide by the law and send a letter out immediately regarding Tuition Benefits to reinstate the benefits. Mr. Hornig agreed to do this.

Chairman Downard suggested that Mr. Hornig speak with the County Attorney regarding suspending the Tuition Benefit and send a copy of the County Attorney's opinion regarding this matter to the Committee.

Affordable Housing Trust

Tina Heavrin, Interim Director Housing and Family Services, spoke regarding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Board

- The staffing of the Board was put on hold and now it is time to deal with issues of a Board and staffing of the Board
- Trust Fund is in place with seed money that was put in by the City
- Need to revisit with the task force in the next couple of months on how to refocus
- Character of the Board has changed
- Targeted for the end of July
- Mayor is committed to the fund
- Government may not be the best way to go
- Recalling the Task Force to look at this in a different way and figure out the best way to move forward
- Fund raising

Janel Temple, Habitat for Humanity; and Rachel Hurst, Catholic Charities also spoke regarding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Board. The following was discussed:

- Agree that the task force should meet again
- Expressed Thanks and Appreciation to Ms. Heavirn and the Council for supporting the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board
- Time line is in order and Board should be appointed soon
- Louisville had the largest increase of Homeless people in a study that was done by HUD
 - o Homeless in general vs, Chronically Homeless
- Continuum of housing
- Concerns regarding building new homes from the ground up vs. rehabilitation of a neighborhood
- The Trust Fund is a funding source not a service provider
- Flexibility with the fund
- Affordable housing is not just about home ownership, it also includes renting homes

Motion to Adjourn made by Tina Ward-Pugh. Without objection the Meeting adjourned at 5:08 P.M.

KQG